

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Patti Roberts
(916) 654-9029

Date: June 14, 2011

News Release No.: 11-25A

State grant will help 170 laid-off workers in Stanislaus County get jobs in high-growth industries

SACRAMENTO – About 170 laid-off workers in Stanislaus County will receive training and employment services thanks to a \$962,500 grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD).

Some of the unemployment is due to plant closings in the area, though many of these displaced employees have the skills necessary to transition into high wage, high growth industries identified by the Governor's California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

In addition to plant closings, since August 2010, 630 jobs have been lost in the construction, retail, and health industries in Stanislaus County. Another 150 pending layoffs are predicted due to downsizing in the government sector.

“The unemployment rate for Stanislaus County is holding steady at 18.4%, and dislocated workers find job vacancies that fit their skills to be scarce or non-existent,” said Pam Harris, Chief Deputy Director of EDD. “This funding provides a welcome opportunity for workers to obtain new skills, for targeted industries to fill employment gaps, and have an overall positive impact throughout the local communities.”

The grant was awarded to the Stanislaus Alliance WorkNet, a workforce community partnership that will help coordinate with local employers for on-the-job training in the manufacturing, supply chain management and logistics, health and medical care, agribusiness, and renewable energy industries. Regional One-Stop Career Centers will provide outreach and intake services, occupational and labor market information, and job search and placement.

(more)

Many of the jobless will be trained to work in a new regional prison, set to open in the future. The facility will bring 3,400 new support jobs into the region. Funds will be used to train individuals for these positions and to backfill vacancies left by individuals transferring from local businesses into the new facility.

This job creation at the new prison is an unprecedented opportunity to train and prepare dislocated workers for the best re-employment option in decades.

Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor's 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's EDD.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Rowe of the Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet at (209) 558-2150.

#